GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:448
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2002
OBSERVATIONS OF U.S. DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. State Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage during his recent visit to India and Pakistan had observed that there was a decline in Indo-Pak tension;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI YASHWANT SINHA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. In public comments made after his visit to India on 23-24 August 2002, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage stated that the situation was better than it was in May 2002, but that incidents of violence were on the upswing and that incursions across line of control had increased from the end of June, though were still below the seasonal annual highs.

(c) Government has noted that U.S. officials have, on a number of occasions, recognised that cross-border infiltration from Pakistan is continuing. Government`s decisions are based on its objectives and its own assessment of the situation on the ground. It is Government`s position that a complete cessation of cross-border terrorism from Pakistan is essential for easing tensions between India and Pakistan.